



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge Partner Schools Program

APPLICATION



Connecting Young People with Nature

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is currently accepting applications for Elementary Schools (K-5th grade) to participate in the ***Refuge Partner Schools Program***. The partnership provides teachers and students multidisciplinary, standard-based curriculum. The curriculum emphasizes hands-on, real-life experiences with plants, wildlife, and recreational opportunities that immerse students in nature throughout the seasons.

Profile of a Typical Refuge Partner School

- The teachers are looking for high quality, multi-disciplinary curriculum-based fieldtrips that meet curriculum standards.
- The administrative staff and teachers are committed to using the outdoors as a classroom.
- At least 30% of the student body is enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program.
- The school does not have access to nearby nature areas or naturalist teaching staff.



Partnership Requirements

- All grade levels at the partner school participate in the program.
- Students visit the refuge 3 times each school year, once in fall, winter and spring, for multiple years (*busing reimbursement for 2014-15 is available through the Refuge Friends, Inc. Blue Goose Bus Fund*).
- Fifth grade students participate in the refuge's annual Youth Fishing Day.
- All students participate in one Service Learning Project during the course of the partnership.
- Teachers participate in at least one free refuge workshop offered during the partnership.
- Teachers provide refuge staff with feedback as requested and share their curriculum expertise to enhance the refuge program.



To Apply

Applications must be received by April 17, 2015. Selections will be completed by June 1, 2015

Revised 2014

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2015-16 APPLICATION

SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Name: _____ *Principal:* _____

School Mailing Address

Street: _____

City: _____ *Zip Code:* _____

Name of Individual Completing this Application: _____ *Day Phone:* _____

STUDENT BODY INFORMATION

What is the total number of students enrolled at your school? _____

What are the approximate. # of classes at each grade level

K: _____ *GR1:* _____ *GR:* _____ *GR3:* _____ *GR4:* _____ *GR5:* _____ *GR6:* _____

Does your school currently have a family/community liaison? _____ *Yes* _____ *No*

Does your school currently have a Science or Environmental Education Specialist? _____ *Yes* _____ *NO*

What % of students are ESL? _____

What languages other than English are spoken at your school? _____

What % of students are on free and reduced lunch at your school? _____

What bus company do you currently contract with? _____

Please complete the chart below letting us know what field trips your students currently participate in?

Grade	Fall Field Trips	Winter Field Trips	Spring Field Trips
<i>K</i>			
<i>1st</i>			
<i>2nd</i>			
<i>3rd</i>			
<i>4th</i>			
<i>5th</i>			
<i>6th</i>			

Please attach a separate sheet answering the following questions:

- **In what way do you see the Refuge Partner School Program benefiting your students?**
- **What environmental education resources and materials are your teachers currently using?**
- **Please describe your schoolyard and the surrounding neighborhood. In what ways might we assist you improve your site for outdoor learning?**

Please Mail or Fax Your Completed Application to:

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Suzanne Trapp

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Carver, MN 55315

Phone: 952-361-4502

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